

Mr. Speaker, South Dakota is plagued by water of exceedingly poor quality, and the Perkins County and Fall River County rural water projects are efforts to help provide clean water—a commodity most of us take for granted—to the people of South Dakota. I am a strong believer in the Federal Government's role in rural water delivery, and I hope to continue to advance that agenda both in South Dakota and around the country. I urge my colleagues to support both of these important rural water bills, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to move forward on enactment as quickly as possible.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, those that have suggested that the use of pesticides by producers of our food supply is not environmentally sound have missed the most important environmental benefit of modern farming: It produces more food from fewer acres, so it leaves more land for nature.

The best possible agriculture for the environment would look amazingly like modern, high-yield technology supported farming. High-yield agriculture is the best available model—and the only proven success for a world that must triple its farm output over the next 45 years, and whose largest demonstrated environmental threat is loss of wildlife habitat.

Our environmentally ideal agriculture must use monocultures, potent new seed varieties, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides to get high yields. It must do this because high yields are the most critical factor in preserving millions of square miles of wildlife habitat from being plowed down for lower yielding crops.

These technologies have more than doubled the yields on our farmlands. Since 1960, we have been able to get twice the amount of grain and oilseeds, and feed better diets to 80 percent more people on the same amount of land. If these new technologies had not taken place we would have lost 10 million square miles of habitat, about the land area of North and Central America combined.

Pesticide bans would cause yield reductions that would themselves lead to significant loss of wildlife habitat. Several studies have been conducted to ascertain the yield differences between farming with or without pesticides. According to a Department of Agriculture Economics study, production in crops would drop between 24 and 57 percent without pesticides. Farming without pesticides would cost us 20 to 30 square miles of wildlife by the time world population peaks in the year 2040.

Environmentally sensitive agriculture is one that uses the best possible use of our land—by technology supported fertilizer use and other high-yield methods which most efficiently produce our feed supply and hence protect wildlife species from habitat loss. Our goal must be to produce more food on fewer acres, leaving the rest to wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the greatest Congressmen from New York State, Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., my friend and colleague with whom I had the pleasure of serving in Congress during my first term. Although we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we shared many interests and common goals.

Congressman Fish, who was known for his ability to compromise, worked on some of the major legislation for the last half of the 20th century. He spearheaded legislation for his party which led to the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1988 and the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990. He was a principal sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, legislation that was denounced by President George Bush as a quota bill. Representative Fish also sponsored amendments to the Voting Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

Hamilton Fish's inspiration and leadership will be remembered. He was a tremendous decent man. His legacy to the United States has been legislation like the Americans With Disabilities Act which now allows people with disabilities to be treated equally and to have equal access to buildings, education, and employment.

I will miss him, and I will miss his decency—I believe all Americans will. Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the family of this fine public servant.

JONES ACT REFORM

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today thousands of agricultural producers across America cannot sell their products to their own U.S. neighbors because they cannot secure waterborne transportation. My own farmers in Michigan can't sell their grain to livestock producers desperately needing feed in the South because there is no means of coastal transportation. American farmers and industry are forced to purchase foreign goods, rather than those produced in the U.S. because there is no means of transportation within the coastal U.S. for American products.

In all parts of the Nation, industry and farmers have watched business opportunities pass them by and go to foreign competitors because of lack of adequate transportation of U.S. goods to U.S. purchasers along our coastal waters. In effect the United States is subsidizing foreign farmers to the detriment of U.S. producers.

This system is contrary to the free-market system and the buy-American philosophy. That is why I am introducing reforms to our Federal maritime law, commonly known as the Jones Act to allow more free movement of agricultural commodities and other cargo within our domestic waters.

Currently the 1920 Jones Act, borne out of national security concerns, requires the trans-

port of goods within the United States be done on domestic carriers, with domestic crews, under domestic flags. My bill is designed to spur economic activity by increasing the means of transportation for agriculture and others goods within the United States and in turn boost the maritime industry which has suffered dramatically in the last 20 years.

My bill that I am introducing today would bring competition to ocean transportation and level the playing field between domestic and foreign carriers by allowing cargo to be carried on foreign ships, while requiring only U.S.-manned crews in compliance with immigration laws, and adherence by foreign carriers to all tax and regulations currently imposed on U.S. ships.

Reforming the Jones Act will strengthen the competitive position of American businesses and agricultural producers. Please lend your support to American industry by helping to promote trade and economic activity throughout the United States.

CORINTH GRANGE NO. 823 CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if there's one organization that has consistently been at the center of American society for generation upon generation, it is the Grange. From its inception in rural America, to the Grange Halls that span across middle America and towns of all sizes and backgrounds today, the Grange has remained the consummate centerpiece for community life.

Mr. Speaker, that is no easy task considering the times and changes we've seen over the course of this 20th century. And that's not to say that the Grange hasn't had to change along with it, because they have. How else can they remain a central part of so many communities? But thankfully, they have remained faithful to those core ideals and principles that have made them a central part of American life.

One such Hall I'd like to make particular note of today is from my congressional district in upstate New York. I'm talking about the Corinth Grange No. 823 who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary later this month. Over the course of 100 years, the Corinth Grange has remained a focal point for community camaraderie and a source of traditional ideals like community service and volunteerism. Mr. Speaker, to me, those are the two ideals to which I most credit the tremendous history and progress of this country. And Mr. Speaker, they have played no less significant role in the history of Corinth and Grange No. 823.

In fact, this fraternal organization is steeped in American history, so centrally tied to our Nation's roots and heritage it is impossible to separate one from the other. It is in places like Corinth, NY, where this rings true to this very day. Because of the work and activities of my fellow Grangers there, the ideals and values that have for so long comprised the American way of life survive today.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have belonged to the Grange for over 25